

CRABTREE FRAME HOUSE

AL-I-C-011

Route 51, Keifer, Maryland  
1894

The Crabtree Frame House presents a picture of the typical rural dwelling found in Allegany County in the latter half of the 19th century, which is a two story, "L" shaped frame structure. Vertical boards and plain battens cover the walls and tar and tin cover the gabled roof. Eli and Elwood Crabtree built the house in 1894 from lumber cut at a sawmill located in a nearby valley.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AL-I-C-011

0101145604

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Crabtree Frame House

AND/OR COMMON

29 01 19 00 00

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 51

CITY, TOWN

Kifer

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

#### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Merlin Crabtree

Telephone #: NONE

STREET & NUMBER

27 /

CITY, TOWN

Kifer

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 221

Folio #: 191

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland, Maryland

STATE

MD.

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                     | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD            | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED              | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Crabtree Frame House is located on the north side of Route 51 near Keifer, Maryland.

This frame structure is "L" shaped and is composed of vertical boards with plain battens. It's two stories tall, three bays wide and rests on a low stone foundation. Windows in the structure are all double hung wooden sash frames with both six over six and three over 1 lights. A one story shed roofed frame addition with its own interior chimney abuts the southwest corner of the house. The main entrance faces north and contains the original hardware including the original verticle paneled door. The roof is gabled and is covered by tin and tar. Featured are three original corbeled brick chimneys with both inside end and central locations. There are two porches on the house. A one bay shed roofed porch is located in the apex of the "L" while the front of the house features a three bay porch covered with a hipped roof.

The Crabtree Frame House stands structurally sound in fair condition, and retains all of its original fabric.

| PERIOD  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| PREHISTORIC                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES 1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Eli &amp; Elwood Crabtree

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Crabtree Frame House presents a picture of the typical rural dwelling found in Allegany County, the two story "L" shaped frame structure. This one is covered with vertical boards and plain battens as opposed to the weatherboarding cover on many of the frame houses in the county.

The present owner is Merlin Crabtree, who now resides in Kensington, Maryland. He and his wife only use the home on week-ends and vacations. His father and his uncle, Eli and Elwood Crabtree respectively, built the home in 1894 themselves. It was constructed of timber cut by a sawmill located in the valley between Town Hill and Anthony Ridge, very near the house. Two outbuildings were built around the house, both of V notched log construction.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Interview with Merlin Crabtree, October 14, 1976

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# **9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## **10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 40.83 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## **11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John Nelson, Joan Baldwin & Steve Beale

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

11/3/76

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-8991

CITY OR TOWN

LaVale,

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY NO. AL-I-C-0113221-191

40.83 Acres

DATE: 10/14/76

P. 93, Map 65

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY:

ELWOOD + ELI (CRABTREE FRAME HOUSE)

LOCATION OF PROPERTY:

RT. 51, KIFER, MD

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES:

NORTH

NAME OF OWNER:

MERLIN CRABTREE

ADDRESS:

KIFER MD.TRACT: "Resurvey on  
Fertile Valley"STORIES: 1( ) 2(☒) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) BAYS: 1( ) 2( ) 3(☒) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) 7( ) ( )WINGS, ADDITIONS: SHED ROOF 1 STORY ABUTS SW CORNER HAS BRICK CHIMNEYDwelling Shape: (square, cross, rectangular) L SHAPE

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- (☒) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?) PLAIN  
( ) BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.  
( ) STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated  
( ) LOG  
( ) Other: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS \_\_\_\_\_

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1( ) 2/2( ) 6/6(☒) 9/6( ) 9/9( ) other( ) 3/1  
pegged ( ) nailed ( ) wide ( ) narrow ( ) mitred ( ) pediment ( )

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

NORTHHARDWARE: original(☒) replaced( )

FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN

Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal BoardsCORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)

original( ) replaced( ) Rafter Ends, Modillions, Dentils, Frieze,

Architrave

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, SHED, MANSARD, GAMBREL, FLAT, DORMERS #MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original( ) replaced(☒) TarPORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed(☒) hip(☒) gable( )shed in apex of L  
Hip on Front EndCHIMNEYS: NUMBER 3 BRICK(☒) STONE( ) CORBELED(☒) original(☒) replaced( )LOCATION: Flush end( ) Inside end(☒) Outside end( ) Central(☒) Interior( )ARCHES: Door and window: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

Use -

Significance -

Date Constructed - 1894

Condition -

Timber cut up valley in sawmill  
Built by his Father (who died 14 yrs.  
Ago + was 93)

● AI-I-C-OII

AI-I-C-OII

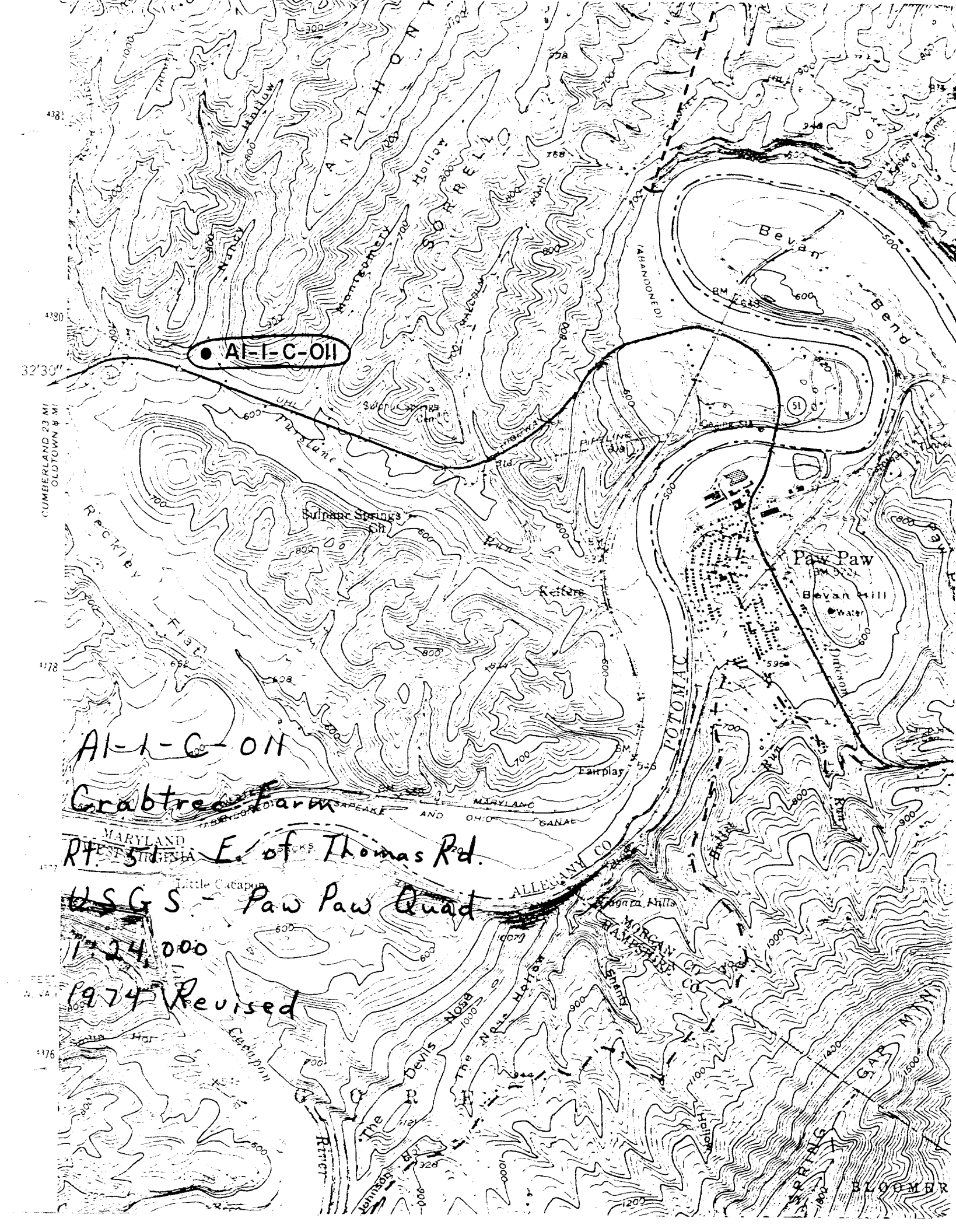
~~Crabtree Farm~~

RT 511 E. of Thomas Rd.

USGS - Paw Paw Quad

1:24,000

1974 Revised







Crabtree Frame House

AL-I -C -C11

Rt. 51, Kifer, Md.

John Nelson

10/14/76

Northeast



- Crabtree Frame House (Outbuilding)

Ah-I-C-011

Rt. 51, Kifer, Md.

John Nelson

10/14/76

NORTH



Crabtree Frame House

AL-I-C-011

Rt. 51, Kifer, Md.

• John Nelson

10/14/76

South



Crabtree House (Shed)

AL-I-C-011

Rt. 51, Kifer, Md.

John Nelson

10/14/76

Northeast